



## *NEWS RELEASE*

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### Wakulla County Participates in Safe Haven Program



Crawfordville, Florida – The Wakulla County EMS and Fire Stations are participating in the Safe Haven Program. The Safe Haven Program stems from Florida Law which allows a mother/father an alternative to abandon an infant with their confidentiality protected. The purpose of this program is to save the lives of newborns. “This is a wonderful opportunity for Wakulla County to join hands in offering this service to the community”, said Fran Councill, EMS Director.

There is an escalating crisis in the United States where mothers are keeping their pregnancy a secret, then disposing of the child after birth. Safe Haven provides an alternative for frightened women, who may do something drastic, destroying two lives, hers and her baby.

Under the Safe Haven Program an infant may be taken to any hospital emergency room, staffed fire rescue station, or staffed emergency medical service station. It is mandatory to give the baby to a person working at one of these facilities. The baby must be seven days old or less and will be given emergency medical services to the extent of their knowledge, and then transported to the nearest hospital. The hospital will take care of any emergency medical services the baby may require. Contact will be made with an appropriate licensed adoption agency.

Wakulla County has three EMS Stations and one Fire Station that will be manned for this program. Thomas Wright, Wakulla County United Firefighters Association, commented “It is with great pleasure and joy that the Wakulla County Fire Rescue Department has the honor of being a part of introducing the Safe Haven Program to Wakulla County”.